

The Story of a Sinful Giver and a Silent Receiver

Islamic Stories - Volume 20

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Chapter 1: The Reward for Helping the Needy

The Parable of the Sinner and the Devout Worshipper.

The Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) narrated that Allah the Almighty said:

Among the people before you was a sinful man who, after finishing his meal, used to brush his dining cloth onto a heap of refuse.

On that heap lived a devout worshipper who, upon finding any crumbs or grains, would eat them. He continued this practice consistently. After some time, the sinful man passed away, and Allah admitted him to Hell due to his sins.

The Devout Worshipper's Life in the Wilderness:

Subsequently, the worshipper retreated to the forest, surviving on grass and leaves. After a period, this devout man also died.

Allah then inquired of him:

Allah:

"Did anyone ever do you any good?"

Worshipper:

"No, my Lord."

Allah:

"From where did you sustain yourself?" — though Allah was already fully aware of the truth.

Worshipper:

"I used to go to that heap where I would find pieces of bread, grains, or bones, which I would eat.

When You caused the death of the chief of that town, I moved to the forest and lived off its leaves and water."

Divine Justice and Mercy:

Allah then commanded that the sinful chief be taken out of the fire.

The worshipper brought him forth and said:

Worshipper:

"My Lord, this is the very man whose dining scraps and bones I used to eat."

Allah:

"Take his hand and admit him to Paradise, for the kindness he showed to you.

Had he known he was doing this for you, I would never have admitted him to the fire."